

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 1:14 PM
To: ~~~~~
Subject: 2019-281-S

Dear Austin Thornton,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Becky Latimer

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210



Phone: 803-896-5100

Fax: 803-896-5199

www.psc.sc.gov

Save as PDF file and Email form
to: contact@psc.sc.gov

* Required Fields

Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2019-81-S

Date: * 1/29/2020

Protestant Information:

Name *

Austin Thornton

Mailing Address *

City, State Zip *

Charleston SC,

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

My company owns a 240 unit apartment Community in Northeast Columbia, Companion at The Palms. We are customers of Palmetto Utilities, currently requesting Another increase

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

In a letter dated April 2, 1018 Palmetto Utilities sent an explanation of the March sewer bill outlining the new charges in effect, an increase from \$36.50 to \$52.10, 43% increase. This notice stated, "These expenditures were necessary to expand the capacity of the Spears Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and to construct both a new discharge pipeline and a new collection pipeline. Added benefits of these expenditures will be improvements in our treatment process and operating performance..." Less than 2 years later Palmetto Utilities is seeking another 28% increase with the reasoning that "not all of the operating expenses ... were allowed to be recovered" From Palmetto Utilities FAQ's regarding recently filed rate request.

This 83% increase in sewer costs over two years is too much for consumers. My residents will have a hard time absorbing this cost. We will lose residents and money as we try to keep up with this increase. This sewer rate should revert to usage as the flat rate has gotten out of hand.

I am concerned that the public was not contacted in an appropriate fashion. Companion at The Palms never received written notification. I feel many of my 240 units did not receive proper notification either.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I am happy to. I hope to see these meetings in a public form, preferably during the evening to allow the most number of consumers to attend.

Signature Required: 